Supplement to the Bombay Gazette.

VOLUME II.] SATURDAY, 12 JUNE, 1830. [NUMBER 71.

Advertisement.

APPLICATION having been made to the Supreme Court of Judicature at Bombay that Letters of Administration of the Estate and Effects of F. B. FORTUNE deceased, late a Lieutenant in the Military Service of the United Company of Merchants of England, Trading to the East Indies on their Bombay Establishment, may be granted to MARTIN WEST Esquire, Registrar of the said Court, all persons concerned therein are hereby apprized thereof.—Dated this 10th day of June 1830.

H. E. SOUTHOUSE,
(2) PROCTOR.

A CARD.

MR. R. MYERS intends opening a SCHOOL, near Mr. Leggett's Bakery, where will be taught Spelling, Reading, Writing and Arithmetic.

Bombay, 12th June, 1830.

FOR SALE
AT THE GAZETTE OFFICE
THE
BOMBAY REGISTER
AND
DIRECTORY
FOR THE PRESENT YEAR.

PRICE FIVE RUPEES.

THE
ALMANACK
FOR DITTO.
Printed on English Paper, and stitched.

PRICE TWO RUPEES.

Bombay, 12th June, 1830.

THE NEW BOMBAY *LITHOGRAPHIC PRESS*

ORDERS for Work and Letters addressed to *The Proprietor of the New Bombay Lithographic Press*, are received by Mr. RIGBY at the Gazette Office.

Bombay, 12th June, 1830.

A CARD.

A EUROPEAN FEMALE, lately returned from England, would have no objection to engage with a Lady or take charge of Children proceeding thence.

For particulars apply to the PRINTER of the Gazette.

Bombay, 12th June, 1830.

For Sale
AT THE GAZETTE OFFICE,
THE FOLLOWING
Printed Works, Forms, &c.

	Rs	qr.
BOMBAY Register and Directory for 1829 | 30....	5	"
Articles of War.....	5	"
Ship's Articles on Royal Paper..	2	"
Book Almanack for 1830....	2	"
Sheet, Ditto for 1829..	1	"
Respondentia Bonds each.. ..	1	"
Policies of Insurance, do.	1	"
Bills of Exchange, per sett....	"	2
Interest Bonds do.....	"	2
Bills of Lading do....	"	2
Powers of Attorney, each.. ..	"	1

LETTER PRESS AND COPPER PLATE PRINTING, neatly executed on moderate terms.

To Be Let.

A WELL Known, and Commodious House situated in Mazagon in the Mount road formerly occupied by GENERAL LEIGHTON and lately by G. ADAM, Esquire.

Also an airy House situated next to the above house, lately occupied by W. C. Bruce Esquire, and are ready to enter immediately for particulars Apply at the Office of FRAMJEE COWASJEE in the Fort.

Bombay, 12th June, 1830.

CALCUTTA.
STEAM NAVIGATION.

To the Editor of the Bengal Hurkaru and Chronicle.

DEAR MR. EDITOR,—I have read with considerable interest you very full account of the Procedings at Bombay regarding Mr. Taylor's proposition, and I sincerely wish it every success, but in justice to myself and other gentlemen, not in India, I feel called upon to give a correct statement of circumstances somewhat distorted in that, which the kindness of a friend enabled Mr. Money to lay before the assembly.

To the Editor of the Calcutta *John Bull* Mr. Greenlaw) is 1823 in the merit due of having first called attention of the Indian Public to a Steam Communication with Europe via the Red Sea. At the same moment I was circulating my prospectus in England, and having there received from the East India Houses of Agency a promise of pecuniary support to half the necessary amount, *provided the Houses in India would come forward to the same extent.* On my arrival in India, I found the public mind already prepossessed in favor of my scheme; but the decision of the Meeting at the Town Hall in 1823, offering a bonus for *public competition* at once destroyed *my* hope of public support, and I had only to retrace my steps disappointedly to England. Mr. Taylor then, was *not* the first projector. True, in the *Emulous* and *Juliana* he was the first to embark capital for the passage of the Red Sea,—with what judgment or probability of success, it is not my object to discuss Mr. Taylor arrived in Calcutta shortly after the Meeting in the Town Hall before mentioned, and requested that the Bonus might he held out to himself or parties connected with him exclusively for a given period. This having been already refused to me, was of course not granted to Mr. Taylor, Immediately on hearing of the offer of a Bonus in India, Mr. Maudsley the engineer, and Mr. Gordon the builder, determined on constructing a vessel (the *Enterprize*) at their joint expence, which they hoped would be well calculated to perform the required voyages round the Cape. Shortly after these arrangements had been made, Mr. Taylor arrived in England, determined to engage in Steam Navigation, and was by Mr. Horsley Palmer introduced to Messrs. Maudsley and Gordon, Looking to the future extention of this projected experiment to "An Indian Steam Navigation Company," Mr. Taylor, with the understanding that he should hold the office of Actuary with a Commission, became an extensive share-holder in the "*Enterprize*;" I believe to the extent of 3 5th. At this junction I again arrived in England from India, and was shortly after invited by Messrs. Amory and Coles, the Solicitors, to meet some gentlemen who had been interested in Indian Steam Navigation by another person of my name, who on my arrival had found it convenient to retire for the benefit of country air. Being under many obligation to Mr. Horsley Palmer for his support, previous to my leaving England, I requested these gentlemen to call on Mr. Palmer with me; and be advised our joining, if possible, with Messrs. Maudsley and Gordon rather than risk, dividing the public interest in the undertaking by establishing another concern. The proposal was made, and received by Mr. Taylor with gladness. Mr. Gordon acquiesced, but Mr. Maudsley *put his decided negative upon it.* Situated as he was, he was, free to act on his own plans, but a company would direct its concerns by a Committee, and he did not chuse to be under control. The majority of two carried it against Mr. Maudsley, and the vessel was divided into 64 shares, afterwards held principally by the Houses of East India Agency, and the Trades-people and others who contributed to the outfit of the Vessel. *The Builder and Engineer did not then look upon their shares as Burthens. The Engineer was forced into the arrangement.* Previous to my arrival in England, the command of the *Enterprize* had been offered to Captain Sutton, who declined. I was afterwards requested to undertake it. My plan was the passage of the Red Sea. I felt confident of the practicability of that route. The voyage by the Cape appeared less certain; required more depots of fuel; but from the assurances given me by experienced and scientific men, that the *Enterprize's* speed would be fully 9 miles per hour, and that she would certainly carry coals sufficient to reach the Cape, I felt satisfied, and accepted the command; my friends Messrs. Palmer and Co. furnishing me the means of taking the number of share required to be held by the Commander. *Mr. Taylor then was not the cause of my having the command of the Enterprize.* That gentleman withdrew very suddenly from the concern, long after the East Indian Houses of Agency had come in as share-holders, and for reasons which I will not attempt to discover.

Mr. Taylor has, I know large sums of money in different speculations, and a great proposition in undertakings. It has been that gentleman's misfortune to speculate on an element with which he is unacquainted, and could he to his zeal and perseverance have added nautical experience, his speculations would in all probability have had more fortunate results. Mr. Taylor's present proposal, literally that submitted by myself in 1823. will succeed and be profitable, *provided it meets with the pecuniary support asked for to be guaranteed on the postage of letters.* The certain communication with India within 70 or 80 days, may be established whenever the exigencies or the state may require it, at an expense beyond the probable returns of from fifteen to twenty thousand pounds annually, the passage round the Cape, therefore is out of the question, as a speculation.

Had I had reason to imagine that a proposal for establishing a Steam communication with Europe *via* the Sea, rejected in 1823, would have been cordially supported at any subsequent period, I had felt myself pledged a debtor to the public, to stand forward as their claimant for its patronage and support. I confess that I do not perceive grounds for such a hope, and I believe the object will be accomplished, (some what tardily indeed) by the Steam Vessels of the Bombay Government, and those of private speculators will follow. Other objects connected with the interests of India and the advantages of Individuals, are under consideration, and the day is not very distant, when I may again present myself to the public, a candidate for its, support and patronage; and by the substautial of its good feelings towards me on a former occasion, be enabled to give a more substantial pledge than formerly, of my devotedness in its service.

I am, dear Mr. Editor, your's sincerely.
May 12, 1830. J. H. JOHNSTON.

CORRRESPONDENCE.

To the Editor of the Bombay Gazette.

SIR,

With reference to the Extract from the Bombay Price Current of the 29th ultimo, published in the Courier of Saturday last, we beg to inform you, that we are the Brokers through whom the sale of an investment therein alluded to, by one of the Honorable Company's Ships, was effected.

On the 2d of June we addressed a letter to Mr. Benton explanatory, of the circumstances connected with this Transaction, and requesting that he would without delay contradict the report in plain and distinct Terms, and, we now beg to inclose you a Copy of Mr. Bentons' reply to us, expressive of his regret that the article which appeared in the Price Current alluded to, should have reflected on our Charecter as agents to the Commander to whom the investment in question, belonged and assuring us that he would give every Publicity to the contents of our letter in the next Price Current, and it is only this moment we have received his refusal to retract the Statement, or take any further notice of the matter.

We now therefore beg the favor of your stating in to-morrow's paper, that with reference to the republication of that Extract from the last Price Current, that we have now instructed our attorney to proceed against Mr. Benton when the whole matter will be laid before the Public.

We remain Sir,
Your very Obedient Servants,
J. & N. NASSERVANJEE.
Friday afternoon, 11*th June* 1830.

TO
JEHANGIER AND NOWROJEE NASSERVANJEE, ESQRES.

GENTLEMEN,

I beg to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of this morning, and in expressing my sincere regret that the article which appeared in my last Price Current should have reflected on your Character as agents to the Commanders to whom the goods alluded to belonged, to state that I shall be most happy to give every publicity to the contents of your letter under reply, which I trust will remove the imputation which you imagine has been cast upon you.

Any papers in addition to that which you have given me, which you may think will tend to the Justification of your own conduct in this matter shall also be published, and this will be better done by appearing in the Price Current next published.

I beg at the same time to state however that any counter statement which may be sent me, I shall consider myself at liberty to publish and will of course give you an apportunity of refuting it by giving insertion to any rejoinder you may wish to make to it.

In conclusion I have to request you will not impute any wrong feeling to me in this matter as I have not I assure you indulged the slightest; my object has been ever since the establishment of the Price Current, the observance of impartiality and Justice to the mercantile community in general, and I shall at all times be willing to contradict any point which has been published by me in error, when sufficient proof has been adduced of its fallacy.

I have the honor to be
Gentlemen
Your Obedient Humble Servant
(Signed) WM. BENTON,
Bombay 2d June 1830.

EXCHANGE, &c.

On London,..... at 6 months sight 1 | 9
Bengal..... at 30 days sight. 107 per 100
Madras.....at 30 days sight *a* 98 per | 100

BAZAR VALUE OF COMPANY'S PAPER.

Remitable notes 137 Bombay Rs per 0 | 0 Sc.
Unremitable ditto 105 ditto per 0 | 0 ditto

Notes of the present 5 per Cent Loan opened at Bengal on the 18th August 1825, selling at 108 Bombay per 0 | 0 Siccas.

PRICE OF BULLION.

Spanish Dollars..... 100 per 222 B'by Rs
German Crowns..... 100 per 213 Ditto.

FREIGHTS.

London..... Per Ton £ 4.
China..... Per Candy, 38 Rs.

THE GAZETTE.

We have heard with much distress, that since the arrival of the H. C. Ship *Berwickshire* in our Harbour, the Cholera has raged most dreadfully on board her, indeed the number of men reported to have died yesterday is frightful in the extreme, and calls most loudly for the interposition of the local Government, a trip to Butcher's Island would restore to perfect health the remainder of the Crew. The change of scene would at least enliven the mens minds, and deter them from dwelling on the melancholy fate of their companions. In the mean time the duties of the Ship might be performed by natives.

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES.

ARRIVALS.—Major F. Hicks, M. Bn.
Capt. B. Chalon, 33d Rt. M. N. I.
DEPARTURES.—Lieut. Hamilton, 2d Cavy.
Lieut. Wright, 3d Rt N. I.
Lieut. H. Bury, 3d Cavy.

SHIPPING REPORTS.

ARRIVAES.—June 9th.—The H. C. Sloop of War Elphinstone, Wm. McDonald, Esq. Actg. Com. from Bassadore, 28th May spoke the H. C. S. of War Amherest from Bombay bound to Bushire and Harnet from Calcutta bound to Bushire.

Passengres per Elphinstone.—Capt. Challon with dispatches, Lieut. Linch; 1 Jemadar, 1. Drummer, 8 Privates, 10 Women and 8 Children.

DEPARTURES.—June 8th.—Ship Glenelg, R. H. Lungley Master, to China.

10th.—Ship Clairmont Archibald McAuley Master, to Port Glasgow.

11th.—Ship Lowjee Family, Wm. Lewis Master, to China.

Passengers by Lowjee.—Chas. N. Goodwin, Esq. J. M. De Ga, Esq.

SHIPS LOADING.

ENGLISH.—Circassian, for London; Lonach, for do.; Othello, for Liverpool; H. C. S. Abercromby Robinson, for China; Bannerman, for do.; Caledonia, for do.; Sesostris, for do.; Sunbury for Bengal; Dadloy, for Siam; Arab Ottamany. for Wootmány.

LIST OF SHIPPING IN THE HARBOUR.

H. C. Ships Abercromby Robinson, Berwickshire, and Edinburgh.
FREE TRADERS.—Sesostris, Othello, Circassian, Lonach, and Hindostan.
COUNTRY SHIPS.—Bannerman, Caledonia, Asia Felix, Sunbury, Samdany, Sir Chas. Malcolm, Shaul Hamed, and Dadloy.
ARAB.—Wootmany, Nassary and Woorter.
H. M. Ship Challenger.
H. C. CRUIZERS.—Hastings, and Elphinstone.
PILOT VESSEL.—Nautilus.
STEAMERS.—Enterprize, and Hugh Lindsay.

DOMESTIC OCCURENCES.

BIRTH.—At Moradabadin Rohilcund, on the 24th of April, 1830.—the Lady of Captain C. J. C. Davidson, Engineers, of a Son.

DEATH.—On Tuesday the 8th Instant, Mary Susannah, the Wife of Colonel Henry Sullivan, of His Majesty's Sixth or first Warwickshire Regt. of Foot.

Parliamentary Intelligence.

IMPERIAL PARLIAMENT.

OF

GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND.

HOUSE OF LORDS,

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 4.

This day Parliament was opened by Commission. At two o'clock, the Commissioners—the Lord Chancellor, Duke of Wellington, and Earls Bathurst, Rosslyn, and Aberdeen—having taken their seats, the Commoners were summoned. A deputation, headed by the Speaker, shortly afterwards appeared at the bar, and the LORD CHANCELLOR read the King's Speech, as follows:—

"*My Lords and Gentlemen,*

"We are commanded by his Majesty to inform you that his Majesty receives from all foreign powers the strongest assurances of their desire to maintain and cultivate the most friendly relations with this country.

"His Majesty has seen with satisfaction that the war between Russia and the Ottoman Porte has been brought to a conclusion.

The efforts of his Majesty to accomplish the main objects of the treaty of the 6th July, 1827, have been unremitted.

"His Majesty having recently concerted with his allies measures for the pacification and final settlement of Greece, trusts that he shall be enabled, at an early period, to communicate to you the particulars of this arrangement, with such information as may explain the course which his Majesty has pursued through out the progress of these important transactions.

"His Majesty laments that he is unable to announce to you the prospect of a reconciliation between the Princes of the House of Braganza. His Majesty has not yet deemed it expedient to re-establish upon their ancient footing his Majesty's diplomatic relations with the kingdom of Portugal. But the numerous embarrassments arising from the continued interruption of these relations increase his Majesty's desire to effect the termination of so serious an evil.

"*Gentlemen of the House of Commons,*

"His Majesty has directed the estimates for the current year to be laid before you. They have been framed with every attention to economy, and it will be satisfactory to you to learn that his Majesty will be enabled to make a considerable reduction in the amount of the public expenditure, without impairing the efficiency of our naval or military establishments.

"We are commanded by his Majesty to inform you, that although the national income, during the last year, has not attained the full amount at which it had been estimated, the diminution is not such as to cause any doubt as to the future prosperity of the revenue.

"*My Lords and Gentlemen,*

"His Majesty commands us to acquaint you that his attention has been of late earnestly directed to various important considerations connected with improvements in the general administration of law. His Majesty has directed that measures shall be submitted for your deliberation, of which some are calculated, in the opinion of his Majesty, to facilitate and expedite the course of justice in different parts of the United Kingdom, and others appear to be necessary preliminaries to a revision of the practice and proceedings of the superior Courts.

"We are commanded to assure you that his Majesty feels confident that you will give your best attention and assistance to subjects of such deep and lasting concern to the well-being of his people.

"His Majesty commands us to inform you that the export in the last year, of British produce and manufactures, has exceeded that of any former year. His Majesty laments that, notwithstanding this indication of active commerce, distress should prevail among the agricultural and manufacturing classes in some parts of the United Kingdom.

"It would be most gratifying to the paternal feelings of his Majesty to be enabled to propose for your consideration measures calculated to remove the difficulties of any portion of his subjects, and at the same time compatible with the general and permanent interests of his people. It is from a deep solicitude for those interests that his Majesty is impressed with the necessity of acting with extreme caution in reference to this important subject.

"His Majesty feels assured that you will concur with him in assigning due weight to the effect of unfavourable seasons, and to the operation of other causes which are beyond the reach of of legislative controul or remedy. above all, his Majesty is convinced that no presure of temporary difficulty will induce you to relax the determination which you have uniformly manifested to maintain inviolate the public credit, and thus to uphold the high character and the permanent welfare of the country."

The House then adjourned; and assembled again five o'clock. After the Speech had been read by the Clerk.

The Duke of BUCCLEUCH rose to move the address. It would be presumption in him, young and inexperienced as he was, to enter at length upon the important matters contained in the Speech, and he should therefore make only a few remarks upon them. The noble duke referred to the state of our relations with foreign powers, the conclusion of war between Russia and Turkey, the affairs of Greece, and the unsettled state of Portugal, nearly in the words of the Speech. He was glad that a revision of the practice of the Law Courts was about to take place; but there was one subject to which his Majesty had alluded, of a less satisfactory description. No one was ignorant of, or could view with indifference, the distress which existed among the manufacturing and agricultural classes in many parts of the country; at the same time that he (the Duke of Buccleuch) did not think that it was either so severe or so universal as some represented, and others might perhaps wish. He hoped that it would be but temporary, and that by exertion they might be enabled to alleviate and finally remove it. Whatever steps might be taken, care should be had not to risk the public credit which the state at present enjoyed. He hoped that when those matters should come before their lordships they would have the whole and undivided attention of the House, but not to be made the subject of daily and desultory conversation, which could be attended with no good effect, and by causing alarm only increase to evil. The noble duke concluded by moving the address, which was an echo of the Speech,

Lord SALTOUN seconded the address. With regard to the war in the East, it was not, he though, a matter of much direct interest to this country; and with respect to Portugal, the affairs of which were in so disagreeable state, he was not aware how the English government could interfere. By law, the eldest branch of the house of Braganza was of course entitled to the throne; but the Portuguese nation had chosen the younger for their monarch, and he did not think it was the policy of the British nation to interfere whether the Portuguese should choose their own king, or as to what form of government they should adopt. In reference to his Majesty's message to the Commons, he was sure that the diminution of expenditure must give their lordships much satisfaction, particularly as it was not considered necessary to reduce the naval or military establishments. That great distress existed in the country there could be no doubt, but this might in a great measure have arisen from the change which took place after the late war from large profits on small capitals to small profits on large capitals. At that period the English were not only growers, manufacturers, and sellers, but they fixed their own price; but immediately after the peace their machinery was adopted by other countries, and competition in the market took place. The agricultural distress existed before the change of the currency, and therfore could not be altogether attributed to that circumstance. In Scotland, the great distress which had prevailed had at first been injurious to public credit, but there was at present the same accommodation from the banks as during the war.

Earl STANHOPE protested against the address, as falling far short of a true description of the distresses of the country. The Speech lamented that distress should prevail among the manufacturing and agricultural classes in some parts of the kingdom. This would have been much more correct had it said in every class; and he would ask, in what part did distress not prevail? The language used was the more extraordinary and less excusable, as the noble duke at the head of his Majesty's government must be aware of its great extent; and the numerous country meetings told him it was universal. The distress arose, in his opinion, from the noble duke's pernicious system of policy. He might say that he had passed the Catholic question; but, though he (Lord Stanhope) was unwilling to revert to a subject which should be considered as dead and buried, he must remind him that he had granted it with a reluctant hand, and only yielded to the treats and menaces of the Catholic Association, and he would find equal, if not greater, distress since the passing of that measure. These matters imperiously demanded their lordships' immediate consideration, and if he did not enter into details it was solely because it was his intention, in a few days, to bring forward a motion for the House to resolve itself into a committee of the whole House for the purpose of taking the internal state of the country into consideration. He considered that the distress arose from legislative measures. They had been told to allow due weight to the bad harvests and other causes; but had the alterations in the currency, had the free trade system, no effect in producing the distress? Although the weather had been unfavourable to the growth of grain, could it have the effect of lowering the price? The person who composed the Speech must have a very mean opinion of their lordships' understanding if he thought they could be induced to give credit to such an absurdity. The country was rapidly approaching the state in which all the bonds of society would be severed; and he conjured their lordships to see what remedies could be applied. If no petitions were to appear, it should not be considered as a proof that the distress did not continue, for the petitions of the people had formerly been disregarded, and they had no confidence in the legislature. Without the support of the country their lordships would find themselves utterly incapable of extricating themselves. The Speech from the throne had not stated the causes of the present unprecedented distress of the country; he should therefore propose that a committee of the whole House be instituted, for the purpose of inquiring into those causes. Another motion which he would bring before the House on some future occasion, was, an inquiry into the state of our foreign relations, with respect to which in some of its details, he confessed he saw much to admire. The improvement of the machinery of justice, however desirable, was a matter of comparative indifference at the present moment, as far as the domestic interests of the country were concerned. He trusted that the motion which he was now about to submit to their lordships would meet with the concurrence of all parties; but if by any chance their lordships should refuse to institute the inquiry in question, he had no hesitation in saying, that they would bring eternal disgrace upon themselves, and be utterly unworthy of the high stations they held. If they wished to extend the wildest principles of parliamentary reform, the best mode they could adopt would be to reject the present inquiry; and if Parliament refused to do its duty, then the argument for a reform could no longer receive a flat denial. The noble earl, in conclusion, submitted an amendment—"That this House, viewing with deep sorrow and anxiety the distresses which now afflict the country, shall resolve itself into a committee of the whole House, for the purpose of inquiring into the causes of those distresses."

Viscount GODERICH, although opposed to the amendment, begged to assure the House that no person felt more deeply than himself for the distress which prevailed to so great an extent, throughout the country, but he wished to call their lordships' attention to the state of its foreign relations. The Speech expressed satisfaction that the war in the East had been brought to a conclusion. Now if the word "satisfaction" were intended to apply, not only to the termination of the war between Russia and the Ottoman Porte, but also to the manner in which it had terminated, he could not concur in its adoption. He certainly anticipated no other result; for, in all the struggles in which Turkey had been engaged within the last 130 years, that country had been shorn of some portion of its power. It was true, that he considered the Sultan in no other light than that of a barbarian fanatic; but he regretted that he should have been deluded to rush into the war (as he firmly believed he had been), by a hope being held out that he would not be without allies in the contest, and that England and France would not permit Russia to take advantage of the treaty of London to further her own interests. Without being an admirer of the Turk, he could not contemplate with indifference the probability of his being eventually driven out of Europe. He saw no ground for dissent with regard to the settlement of Greece, and whether a monarchy was in contemplation or not, he would at once say he thought a monarchical form of government best suited to all the circumstances of that country. With respect to Portugal he inferred, from the tone of the Speech, that it was the intention of government to recognise Don Miguel; but, if he were recognised, he trusted that it would be the single, undivided act of England, by which she would be entitled to receive those services in return which that act on her part entitled her to expect; and he trusted, moreover, that should that recognition take place, the unfortunate individuals from that country who had sought a refuge here and in other parts, would be protected. The noble lord then, in reference to the allusion made by Earl Stanhope to the free-trade system, remarked, that he could never learn from its opponents what they understood by the terms "free trade," or what alternations or remedies they would propose. It had been said that we had departed from the wisdom of our ancestors by allowing the country to be inundated with foreign goods. But he believed the fact was, that our ancestors, on all occasions when they had the opportunity, had nearly followed in the same tract. After all the reductions which had taken place in many of the taxes from 1823 to 1827, which amounted to nine millions, in comparison with the taxes levied in 1822 and 1823, the total loss of income to the revenue did not amount to above one million. It was quite clear, therefore, that the people consumed more now than they used to do. When the House came to consider this and other matters, he hoped that their time would not be occupied in more declamation, and, from whatever causes the distresses of the country had originated, it would be ascertained that they could not be attributed to the circumstances to which he had previously alluded.

The Duke of RICHMOND was sorry to repeat what he had before stated in the House, that the want of adequite protection had ruined the wool-grower. But in common with that class, the farmer, the manufacturer, and the landholder, were all now involved in the same destiny—all, in fact, on the verge of ruin. And what was the result to the working classes? Why, that almost the whole of that most industrious portion of the community depended, at the present moment, upon the miserable pittance of a parish overseer; and were the noble lords, under these circumstances, to tell the yeomen of England that there was no remedy? On these grounds he would support the amendment.

The Earl of CARNARVON said he felt confident that the coldblooded allusions to the distress made in the Royal Speech belonged solely to ministers, and that they did not emanate from his Majesty. The Speech was, indeed, but an admission of ministerial incapacity. No hope was held out, no remedy suggested; and it was only wished that the system should be adhered to which has been pursued for so many years, and which had been attended by increasing difficulties. The argument founded on a bad harvest would be best answered by a reference to the little effect produced on the state of manufactures and agriculture in the years 1816 and 1817, both of which were much worse seasons than the last, and yet in the year 1818 we were beginning to experience a race of returning prosperity. The two seasons which preceded that year were so severe, that the government became alarmed at the consequences, and before the end of the year 1817, there was an issue of seven millions of Exchequer bills, three millions of small notes by the Bank of England, and a corresponding increase of the notes of private bankers. This timely increase of the currency converted (if he might so express himself) the badness of the seasons from a cause of national calamity into a means of increasing the public prosperity. This plain fact was a sufficient answer to all the arguments derived by the framers of the Speech from the wetness of the last season. Lord Goderich had said that he should vote against inquiry, because all inquiry into the causes of the present distress must turn out illusory. Illusory such inquiry most certainly would be, if that House confessed that they participated in the incapacity which the King's ministers had not been ashamed to avow—illusory every inquiry would be, if their lordships united upon this occasion with a ministry, who feared not, in the face of a suffering nation crying out for relief, to tell them that their miseries could neither be removed nor mitigated. The distresses were falsely and improperly attributed to temporary causes in the Speech; but he contended that they proceeded from the alterations which had been made in the currency. Under a different circulation from the present, the country had attained and supported a high state of prosperity; and it was because the circulation was no longer adequate to the demands and necessities of the present state of the country that every order of society found their operations embarrassed, and their transactions involved in confusion and distress. Many of their lordships had already reduced their incomes from twenty to thirty per cent., and it was perhaps the intention of the government to take no steps for the relief of the public distresses, until the rents should have been made to undergo another reduction to the same extent. But how, in the meantime, were they to maintain a famishing population, who incessantly clamour for bread? (*Hear.*) The currency of a country was the great machine by which all the operations of society were to be effected, and it could not be constructed upon too large and extensive a plan. The truth of this principle admitted of an easy illustration from the business of common life. A man whose expenditure was trifling would, on going from home, put a few shillings in his pocket in order to meet the slight necessities which might arise for the use of a circulating medium. If his dealings were a little more extensive, he would put in his pocket a few sovereigns; but, if his transactions should be considerable, he should be obliged to have recourse to a medium more convenient than either silver or gold. It was exactly the case in regard to the general circulation of a country, and in that case, as in that of a private individual, the gold and silver were only small change. It was true that they were considered as the standard of value, and it was true that in one sense they were so. But in reference to the transactions of the country, they were only the small change with which the lesser business of life, and the inferior operations of commerce, agriculture, and manufactures were conducted. Of the policy of withdrawing the small-notes from circulation he had at first entertained great doubts, but it seemed that the leaders of all parties were equally pledged to support the measure; and if, now they had got into the mud, they floundered about until they were sinking, they could blame nobody but themselves. It was too much to attempt to drag the people of England with them. When ministers said they had no relief to propose, it was time to try whether it might not be worth while to communicate the management of public affairs to other men, who, possessing some docility and some common sense, were at the same time impressed with a conviction that the people of this nation might be rendered happy by the enactment of a few wise laws, which there seemed no likelihood of obtaining from the obstinacy of the present government. The noble earl went on to recommend a silver standard, and to assure the House, that in seeking relief, he advocated no partial measure, only a more equal distribution of the public burthens. He admitted that the noble duke opposite would be ready to apply a remedy, if he knew it; but whether he devised one or not, some remedy must be speedily applied. His lordship then commented at some length on the foreign topics treated of in the Speech, and censured ministers for the policy which they had pursued towards Portugal. It was, in his opinion, anything but neutrality to prevent the landing of the Portuguese force at Terceira. Indeed, throughout, we had acted the part of constables towards Don Miguel; and the sending off the Portuguese who had landed at Portsmouth, was a sufficient proof of our bearing towards the usurper. He did not

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the course pursued by ministers to [illegible]rection for Don Miguel or his governm[illegible]t, but being involved by the state of the [illegible]untry at home, they seemed disinclined to [illegible] to their difficulties by an active interfe[illegible]e with respect to foreign relations. The amendment received his support, less from any hope he entertained from a parliamentary inquiry, than because he could not assent to an address which attributed the distresses of the kingdom to causes which had little or no connexion with them.

The Duke of WELLINGTON observed, that he had resolved, on this occasion, not to touch upon those passages in his Majesty's Speech which referred to the affairs of Portugal, and he thought it unfair in the noble lord to take him by surprise on a subject which he had had no notice of, as he could otherwise have furnished satisfactory answers. The commercial treaties of this country with Portugal enforced upon the government the necessity for preserving a strict neutrality; and, accordingly, such had been observed. His grace entered into a recapitulation of the circumstances attendant on the insurrection at Oporto, and Count Villa Flor's expedition, observing, that if the government of this country had suffered any armament to land at Plymouth, it would have been a direct breach of neutrality. Another part of the noble earl's speech—that part which, in his opinion, was the only one of importance—embraced topics which other noble lords had also spoken upon. His Majesty had recommended caution and deliberation, but the noble lords would at once point out the very measure which should be adopted, namely an alteration in the currency. (*Hear, hear.*) The noble earl had thought proper to insinuate that his Majesty's ministers, and that he (the Duke of Wellington) in particular, had neglected to inquire into the distresses of the country. He begged to assure their lordships, that no man had been more industrious in making inquiries on this subject than he had, and that no man could lament more deeply than he did the distress that existed. If he had no other interest in the matter than that which attached to his official character, still he should not be able to help feeling this distress most deeply. (*Hear.*) The noble earl thought proper to assume, that his Majesty's Speech attributed the distress that prevailed to the seasons only; but this interpretation was not correct. His Majesty merely said, that in considering this subject, he felt assured that their lordships would give due weight to the effect of unfavourable seasons. Now their lordships knew very well that they had had one bad harvest, and another which had not been got in without very great and unusual expense. All that his Majesty had said was, that he was assured their lordships would not put them out of their consideration. But there was another class of distress totally distinct from this, namely—the distress which had resulted from the state of our manufactures. It was to this distress that his Majesty alluded when he spoke of the operation of causes beyond the reach of legislative controul. Was this expression applicable or inapplicable to the subject! Did it argue negligence on the part of the ministry in not inquiring into this distress? He wanted to know if competition, both at home and abroad, in every country in the world—if the introduction of machinery and the general adoption of steam, were not calculated to produce distress in our manufactures? These were the circumstances to which his Majesty referred, and he begged to ask noble lords if they were within the controul of the legislature? Could Parliament interfere and prevent competition? Could Parliament say that there should be no improvements in machinery, and that steam be not applied to manufactures? And yet no one could doubt that improvement in machinery, and the application of steam, threw labourers out of employment, and consequently were among the causes that produced distress. But the noble lords contended that this distress was general and universal. He had no disposition to conceal the extent of the distress that existed, but he must be allowed to say, that some parts of the country were free from every thing like distress. He would assert—and when the documents were laid before their lordships it would be seen that they bore out his assertion—that the exports of this country had increased every year for some time past, and that last year they had been more than they had ever been before. He would assert, also, that these documents would contain the strongest proofs of rapid advancement generally. There was not a canal, not a rail road in the country, which did not present an increase of traffic. This, it was said—and he did not mean to deny it—had been done at small profits; but at the same time, if men and animals were employed in this traffic, it must be to the advantage of some one. The profits realized might not be so large as they were ten years ago; but profits there must be, or this increase of traffic would not exist. And then, again he begged leave to call the attention of their lordships to the condition of another class—a very large class. He meant the retail dealers. He wanted to know if any distress existed among the retail dealers? (*Hear, hear.*) Were they distressed who could pay the rent of those new houses that were being erected every where! Pressure upon the country there doubtless was; but it was not so great as to prevent the country from rising---slowly, it was true, but still rising. The country was not stationary, much less was it falling; it was rising. (*Hear, hear,*) Parts of the country were depressed; but parts were not only free from suffering, but better off than they had been before. And now let him be allowed to say a few words as to the remedy which the noble lords proposed. The noble lords attributed the distress that existed to a deficient circulation. He held in his hand a paper which would show how very erroneous this opinion was. The largest circulation which had ever been known in this country during the Bank restriction was 64,000,000l. This sum was thus made up:—

Bank of England notes	£30,000,000
Country bank-notes	23,000,000
Gold	4,000,000
Silver	7,000,000
Making in all,	£64,000,000

The circulation now Amounted to 65,100,000.; and the sum was thus made up:—

Bank of England notes	£19,900,000
Country Bank-notes	9,200,000
Gold	28,000,000
Silver	28,000,000
Making in all,	£65,100,000

Their Lordship therefore would see that the circulation was greater now than during the Bank restriction, and consequently that the distress was not properly attributed to a deficient circulation. But the truth of the matter was this—it was not extended circulation that the noble lords wanted. No, it was unlimited circulation. In other words, they wanted to give certain individuals—not to the Crown—an unlimited power of coining in the shape of paper, and of producing a fictitious capital. (*Hear, hear.*) He begged their lordships to recollect how narrowly they escaped from the ruinous consequence of this system in 1825 and 1826. (*Cheers.*) This was the system to which they were now asked to revert. A noble lord told them that he found, in the west of England, that a man could borrow nothing; that though a man had his hayrick or his stack of corn, he could borrow nothing upon it now! And why? Because the bankers were no longer able to coin one-pound notes. (*Cheers.*) Now, he supposed that the bankers were still able to make their profits by discounts;—but this was not all the banker wanted—he wanted also the profit upon his insecure 1*l*. notes—(*cheers,*)—as well as the profit of discounting a man's bill. What the noble lord wanted might be stated in a very few words; he wanted an unlimited circulation, and he wanted to produce such a circulation by allowing certain individuals to issue as many notes as they pleased without the slightest security whatsoever that these notes would be paid. (*Cheers*) Now to prove that there was no want of money in the country, let their lordship recollect that capital was always forthcoming when called for. Any scheme, if only a little plausible, was sure to find capital for the purpose of carrying it on. There was no government, however bankrupt, but could borrow money here; and there was no man in the country who had any thing like security to offer, but could get money whenever he wanted it. (*Cheers.*) In answer to all declamation about the evils of free trade, and this matter of the currency, let him call upon their lordships to recollect how many taxes had been taken off since 1815, and the reduction that had been effected in the public debt. Let him also tell those who talked about equitable adjustments, that none of the measures which they were so fond of would have effected these objects. Of course he did not mean to take credit for these things; the credit of them was due to his predecessors; but he hoped their lordships would think that he was not asking too much for himself and colleagues when he begged of them to allow them to persevere in the same course. He trusted that their lordships would believe him when he assured them that his Majesty's ministers would do all they could to relieve the distress that existed, and that the strictest economy consistent with the interests and welfare of the country should be preserved. (*Cheering.*)

The Marquis of CLANRICARDE hoped, before the recognition of Don Miguel took place, that their lordships would be favoured with some information respecting the circumstances that had induced ministers to take that step. He hoped particularly, that with respect to the mission of a noble relative of his to the Brazils, they should not be left wholly in the dark.

Lord ABERDEEN said he had long considered the recognition as a question of time only. The House might be assured that no step would be taken without the fullest information upon the subject.

Lord HOLLAND denounced, in strong terms, the conduct of the usurper Don Miguel and designated the course pursued by government throughout as most disgraceful. There was another subject, too, the affairs of the East, upon which he trusted their lordships would not be left without information. He would not say any thing upon that subject now, except that he thought his Majesty's ministers had treated their "ancient ally," the Turk, with great disrespect. For his own part, he should not have regretted the fall of and disgusting tyranny, which had done so much mischief to mankind.

The Earl of ABERDEEN assured Lord Holland that they should not ask his advice as to the course that should be adopted with respect to Portugal. Their lordships might depend upon being furnished with information, which he trusted would fully justify the government in every step that had been taken. That Don Miguel's character might merit all the reproaches cast upon it was possible, and he would be very far from defending or even palliating what was considered reprehensible conduct in him. But the noble lord ought to have been the last person to object to him as an usurper, for he had on former occasions defended the authority of a much greater usurper, on the plea that he was the choice of the people.

Lord HOLLAND begged to deny that Napoleon was an usurper. He had the same right to the House of France, viz.—a parliamentary right—as the illustrious family who had been called to rule over this country. (*Hear.*)

The Earl of WINCHILSEA briefly supported the amendment. An inquiry was essential to support the character of the House, and prevent the people from associating to redress their own grievances.

Lord KING said, as he agreed neither in the address nor the amendment of Earl Stanhope, he found it absolutely necessary to move one of his own. (*Laughter.*) If their lordships looked to the speech of the noble earl, they would find that it bore with it a strong hankering after the fleshpots of Egypt. The noble earl remarked how well things went on when paper formed the circulating medium. Then rents were high. Those who voted for the Bank Restriction Bill found everything very smooth while it continued, but when there came a specie circulation, they then saw themselves obliged to pay their share of the burdens with which they had before loaded others. This was retributive justice, and Bentham himself could not have invented a punishment more appropriate to the crime. The country was the victim of monopoly. There was the corn monopoly, the beer monopoly, the sugar monopoly, and the tea monopoly, and all these monopolies were supported at the expense of the consumers, whom nobody cared about. This was one cause of the distress. If an accurate estimate were made of the additional weight imposed on the country by these monopolies, it would be found to be equal to one half of the whole of the national debt. Another cause of the distress was the raising of the price of food and raw produce. By that profits were reduced, and by refusing to take the produce of other countries, we could not sell the produce of our own. Thus capital was driven abroad, and misery created at home. These delightful monopolies were at last found to tell against the landed interest. America, France, and England were all suffering under the system of monopoly and exclusion, and had forced their customers to become their rivals. The noble lord concluding by moving, as an amendment, a series of resolutions embodying the opinions he had expressed.

The Earl of DARNLEY disapproved of the course recommended by the noble earl who had moved the amendment, which was merely the extension of a paper currency. There was one subject omitted in the Speech, which he could not help regretting—he meant all allusion to the state of Ireland. Undoubtedly his noble friend had done much for that portion of the empire, but much still remained to be done. It was his intention to bring forward that subject as soon as a convenient opportunity should arrive, if his noble friend, who could do so with so much greater effect, did not render it unnecessary.

The Duke of WELLINGTON said, that the subject of Ireland would shortly be brought before their lordships.

Lord CLIFDEN approved of the call for inquiry into the nature and causes of the existing distress, but not of the remedy proposed by Earl Stanhope.

The Marquis of LANSDOWNE would oppose the amendment, conceiving that it was the object of noble earl who had moved it, to bring the House to the adoption of one of the greatest evils which the country had ever endured—an unlimited paper circulation.

The question was then put on the first amendment, and the House divided, when there appeared for the address—

Content.... 71 | Not Content.... 9
Majority against the amendment....62

Their lordships adjourned at twelve o'clock to Monday

MINORITY.—The Dukes of Cumberland, Newcastle, and Richmond; Earls Winchilsea, Carnarvon, Stanhope and Radnor; Lords Northwick and Rivers.—*The Atlas.*

English Extracts.

THE ATLAS.—Feb. 21.

The proceedings in Parliament during the week will be perused with interest. In the House of Lords an unsuccessful motion made by Viscount MELBOURNE for the production of a variety of papers relative to Portugal, drew a warm vindication from ministers of the policy pursued by this Cabinet; and the recognition of DON MIGUEL is evidently not far distant. A general amnesty for the past is, however, to be insisted upon as a preliminary step, in justice to many who upheld the Constitution under an impression that it was countenanced by England, although it appears that we lent no assistance in its formation. To Don PEDRO alone belongs the merit of having dictated a constitution to a state which he had not the power or the inclination to support; and of having paved the way to his brother's usurpation, by appointing him to the regency of the kingdom which he has since secured for himself. Lord JOHN RUSSELL, by a similar motion in the Lower House to that made by Lord HOLLAND in the Upper, respecting Greece, elicited from Mr. PEEL the gratifying assurance, that although, by the arrangements in progress, the extent of the new kingdom might be less than was at one time contemplated, Greece will be rendered a perfectly independent state, free to choose her own government, and not tributary to the Turkish power, as she would have been under the provisions of the Treaty of London.

Mr. PEEL has introduced the measures for improving the administration of the law, promised in his Majesty's Speech. One of the most formidable obstacles the first advance towards simplifying and cheapening our system of jurisprudence—that of vested interests in office—is proposed to be removed by creating a general compensation fund with the fees paid to the present holders; and of course, in all new appointments, the principle of compensation in the event of a change taking place, will not be recognised. The second part of the plan, which is to be immediately carried into effect, is the complete assimilation of the Welch judicature to that of England; therefore as the circuits will be increased, four new judges are to be appointed, who will also assist in the despatch of business in the Common Law Courts. Their salaries are to be provided for by abolishing the Welch judgeships, and reducing the salaries in all future appointments to the bench from 5,500*l*. (the salary fixed by the last act) to 5000*l*. each. The number of judges in Scotland is to be greatly diminished, and the business of the several courts placed under a better arrangement. Bills to carry the two first of these propositions into effect are already moved for in the Commons, but they are only to lay the foundation of more important ameliorations in the law. Those embodied in a second report of the Law Commission, now ready for presentation, comprise an extension of the power of the Courts of Law, in order to prevent so frequent a resort to the Equity Courts; the verification of written documents before trial, to save the expense of witnesses in certain cases; compulsory arbitration in matters of account; and the simplification and abridgment of the obsolete forms of pleading. Such is an outline of the plan, stated by Mr. PEEL as being preparatory to a general reform in the administration of the law. It is labours like these that ensure a statesman the purest and proudest gratification of office—the esteem and approbation of the best and wisest of every party; that allay the bitterness of political enmity; and that, in the retirement of after-life, yield the secret and consoling reflection, that he converted the power of office into an instrument for giving to the community at large the means of obtaining that with which true liberty is closely identified—an equitable and cheap administration of justice.

The Marquis of BLANDFORD has given an earnest of the sincerity of his belief in his recently adopted creed of parliamentary reform, by moving for leave to bring in a bill to amend the representation. The plan he proposed had something of novelty—the appointment of a standing committee to revise the system of representation, who should disfranchise all boroughs proved guilty of corruption, or which had fallen into decay, and transfer the franchise to the payers of scot and lot in populous towns and places; further, that representatives should be paid for their attendance. Sir F. BURDETT supported the motion in a spirited speech, remarkable for its earnestness and the resemblance it bore to some of the honourable baronet's former harangues on the subject of reform. The reformers in the House were, however, divided in opinion on the motion; Mr. PEEL treated it with ridicule: and an amendment of a general kind substituted in lieu of the original motion, at the suggestion Mr. BROUGHAM, was negatived by 163 votes to 57.

The reductions proposed by government in the various branches of public expenditure, were stated on Friday night by the CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER, previous to the House going into a Committee on the Army Estimates. The saving upon the several estimates, including Army, Navy, Ordnance, and Miscellaneous, is 1,029,400*l*.; to which is to be added a reduction on the interest of Exchequer Bills and in the Treasury department, amounting to 250,000*l*.; so that the total of reduction is about 1,300,000*l*. The reduction in the army is only 442 officers and privates, as compared with last year; but the savings in the several departements amount to 213,000*l*. Colonel DAVIES moved an amendment, restricting the vote to May next, in order that the army estimates, in the mean time, undergo the revision of a committee. The general feeling of the House at the statement of the CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER appeared to be that of disappointment; but several who expressed this opinion declared the army could not be reduced, consistently with our establishments, and the amendment was negatived by 235 to 93. Mr. HUME afterwards moved a reduction of five thousand men, which was negatived by 167. It remains to be seen what change the declaration of the retrenchments which the government are prepared to make will effect in the opinions of a number of the members, who have refrained from voting against the cabinet until their plans of retrenchment should have been fully developed.

BELL'S MESS.—Feb. 14.

The papers and letters from Lisbon to the 24th ult. state, that Don Miguel, unable to obtain money from other quarters, has ordered a levy to be made on the different monastic orders; thus making them expiate, in part, their mischievous machinations against the free institutions of their Country. The decree issued for this purpose stipulates for 752,000

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milreis (from seven Monasteries), or, at the present rate of exchange, about 150,000*l.*

Letters from Rio de Janeiro give an account of an accident which excited considerable alarm, as well from the illustrious rank of the personages to whom it befel, as from the imminent danger to which their lives had been exposed. On the evening of the 7th December the Emperor was returning from St. Christophe to his residence, in a carriage, with the Empress, his daughter Donna Maria da Gloria, and the Empress's brother, the Duke de Santa Cruz, when, unfortunately, the vehicle was upset, and the pole broken. The Emperor was thrown from the carriage, had two of his ribs broken, and received several contusions in different parts of the body. Donna Maria was also hurt, but not dangerously, although her face was much lacerated. The Duke de Santa Cruz was also thrown out with considerable violence, and fractured his arm. The Empress alone escaped without injury. The last accounts state that the Emperor was recovering, with every prospect of being soon perfectly restored; and Donna Maria had already been able to leave her room.

LORD BYRON, Mr. MURRAY and Mr. COLBURN.

At a trade sale on Friday, at the Albion, amongst other things submitted for sale, were the copy-rights of sixty five of Lord Byron's minor poems. Mr. Hanson, one of Lord Byron's executors, and the two great publishers, Messrs. Murray and Colburn, were present. Upon the lot being put up, Mr. Murray was the first bidder at 500 guineas: the biddings went on till it anounted to the enormous sum of 3 700 guineas, when it was knocked down to Mr. Murray. At this moment Mr. Colburn claimed the purchase, and much altercation ensued, when the room became in a state of complete confusion, Mr. Murray contending on the one hand that it was his, and Mr. Colburn on the other that it was his. It was a very considerable time before Mr. Colburn could get a hearing, when he submitted the case to the company; he stated that he had given the auctioneer unlimited authority to go on bidding till he desired him to stop, which the auctioneer did not deny; Mr. Colburn, at the same time, very handsomly gave the purchase up to Mr. Murray, which information was received by the company in terms of acclamation, when, after an hour's altercation, the business of the day went on. The copy-right of *Don Juan* was the next lot sold, which was bought by the Executors of Lord Byron for 310 guineas.—*Atlas, Feb.* 21.

Destruction of the English OPERA HOUSE by FIRE.

FURTHER PARTICULARS.

We subjoin the following additional particulars, which have subsequently transpired:—The first houses that caught were those in the court belonging to Mr. Cassidy, the master carpenter to the theatre, whose house is No. 7, Exeter-street, immediately opposite to the entrance to the one-shilling gallery; with difficulty his family were aroused, and with some assistance saved some of his property, and extricated his children from destruction. The next house that caught was that of a man named Stevens, a fruiterer, whose wife belongs to the saloon of the theatre; another, which was in the possession of a French woman, who kept a sort of *café* for the accommodation of the audience, who attended the French plays: a fourth, belonging to Kilsey, a mangler, next door to the theatre: a fifth, adjoining the latter, in the occupation of Manning, who kept a coffee-house. The whole of these, five in number, have been completely gutted; all of them belonged to Mr. Arnold, and we are sorry to hear are not insured. In Exeter-street the following are the names of the sufferers, and the extent of their losses:—The house next the theatre, the bottom part of which was in the occupation of a man named Horsenail, a green-grocer, over which was Mr. Arnold's sitting-room, and above that the ladies' dressing-rooms, is completely destroyed. Horsenail saved some of his property, and some of Mr. Arnold's also was saved. Two iron chests were removed from the treasury, which is near the stage-door, shortly after the fire commenced. The house of Mrs. Symonds is totally consumed, but her property saved, and most of it broken to pieces. That of Mr. Stockdale, the saddler, is completely gutted: here a female jumped from the first-floor window, and escaped with some slight bruises. The premises of Mr. Johnson, a professor of the harp, have suffered materially; the roof is completely destroyed, as well as his valuable stock of musical instruments; unfortunately he is not insured. The next to this is belonging to a man named Thacker, a working jeweller: although his house was preserved, his property has been considerably injured.

Another account adds, from an authentic source, "that the theatre was uninsured." This circumstance is of course owing to the enormous premium required for property of so dangerous a description. The loss to Mr. Arnold will be at least from 30,000*l.* to 40,000*l.* The fire is supposed to have originated from a stove behind the boxes, which was used to warm the theatre, and the fire from which had not been properly raked out The houses were partly insured. All Mr. Arnold's books and papers were saved, but the whole of the theatrical wardrobe was consumed. It is supposed that the total loss of property by this fire, to all who have suffered by it, will be nearly 80,000*l.*

We lament to state, that the company of French performers, under the management of M. M. Laporte, Cloup, and Pelissie, have been sufferers to a melancholy extent by the awful conflagration, having lost the whole of their respective wardrobes. The jewellery and trinkets belonging to Madame Beaupre and Mademoiselle Trina, two of the principal female performers, were also entirely consumed, and the aggregate value of the property thus destroyed amounts to a very considerable sum—that portion of the dresses and decorations furnished by Mr. Cloup being estimated at 1,600*l.*; therefore, the unfortunate manager, with the exception of Mr. Arnold, the proprietor of the late magnificent edifice, may be regarded as one of the most extensive sufferers. M. Potier, the celebrated French comic performer, who had accepted a short engagement at a liberal salary, provided his own dresses, which be brought to this country from the Continent, where he had at different periods collected them at an expense exceeding 200*l.*, and not an article saved, in consequence of the rapid progress of the destructive element. The splendid fittings up of the theatre for the season, which had just commenced, it is said cost the enormous sum of 3,000*l.*, stalls for the fashionable part of the audience having been constructed at a vast expense, which was sustained by Messrs. Arnold, Laporte, and Cloup, who respectively contributed the sum of 1,000*l.* towards the above-named amount. We understand that the French company will conclude their season at the Haymarket Theatre.

We are glad to find that M. Laporte has generously given the use of the King's theatre for a performance on behalf of the French company. Potier gives his powerful aid; and Kean, with the consent of Mr. Price, is also a volunteer on this benevolent occasion.

On Friday night, a meeting took place at the Bell, in Exeter-street, of the principal inhabitants and tradesmen in the neighbourhood, for the purpose of raising a subscription to relieve the number of poor industrious persons, many of whom had lost the whole of their effects by the conflagration at the English Opera-house. Mr. Milbourne, of No. 347, Strand, was called to the chair, and having stated the objects of the meeting proposed that a committee be appointed to investigate the cases of the sufferers, and to relieve the most necessitious and deserving objects from the subscription raised. A committee was then formed, and Mr. Deville, of No. 367, Strand, was appointed treasurer. A subscription was then entered into by the gentlemen present, and the meeting adjourned to Monday.

The theatre is, it is said, about to rise without delay, (Phœnix like,) from its ashes, more resplendent than in its original state. So sanguine is its respectable proprietor of the support which he will receive under the heavy calamity with which he had been visited, as regards his property, that he anticipates—an anticipation in which we most cordially hope he will not be disappointed—having the new theatre ready for opening on the 1st of July next, the day upon which, if no casualty had occurred, the company would, in the regular course, have commenced its summer season. Mr. Beazley is to be the architect. The arduous task of re-erecting the edifice is placed entirely under his direction and control, and notwithstanding the shortness of the period named, he is so confident of success, that he has pledged himself to have the building completed and ready to open upon the day named. It is said that advantage will be taken of the opportunity thus afforded for carrying into effect the long-contemplated improvement in the approaches to Waterloo-bridge, by opening a new street from that noble structure northward by Covent-garden. In that case an opportunity would be afforded for obtaining, for the new theatre, a handsome frontage in the line of the new street. It is further stated, that the plan will receive the sanction of government, and that a noble lord, who has a deep interest in the property near the spot, has declared that no opposition will be thrown in the way of carrying this important improvement into effect, even should it be attended with some injury to a part of his property.—*Evening Paper.—Bell's Weekly Mess, Feb.* 22d

THE HONOURABLE HENRY ERSKINE.

By Derwent Conway.

My youthful visits to Ammondell live very greenly in my memory; these had greater charms for me than either Horace or Virgil. and, I suspect, charms quite as rational. None of my holidays were anticipated with longings more eager than those than were to be spent at Ammondell. I had my fishing tackle to arrange which, to one fond of angling, is a pleasure, secondary only to that of using it. I had to prepare myself in the classics, which, though a less agreeable occupation than the other, was as necessary—certain, as I was that I should be examined as to my proficiency. Sometimes, also, I venture upon a verse or two, of English poetry, to show to my indulgent relative.

It was soon after Mr. Erskine retired from the bar and from political life, that my visits to Ammondell were the most frequent; and it is at this period that my recollections of him are the most vivid. Some say, he retired from public life disgusted; all admit, that retired neglected—but no one will add, forgotten. Sure I am, that if impressions made upon the mind of a boy be entitled to any regard, I may say truly that disappointment, if felt at all, had been unable in him to sour the milk of human kindness; and that, when I saw that fine grey-headed man—the most eloquent, the wittiest of the day—walking in his garden, with the hoe in his hand, I never questioned his sincerity in the following charming and characteristic lines which he once read to me from his scrap-book, and which not very long before his death, he kindly permitted me to copy. They have never before been published:

Let sparks and topers o'er their bottle sit,
Toss bumpers down, and fancy laughter wit;
Let cautious glodders o'er the ledger pore,
Note down each farthing gain'd, and wish it more
Let lawyers dream of wigs,—poets, of fame,—
Scholars look learned, and senators declaim:
Let soldiers stand like targets in the fray,
Their lives worth just their thirteen pence a-day;
Give *me* a nook in some secluded spot
Which business shuns, and din approaches not,—
Some quiet retreat, where I may never know
What monarch reigns, what ministers bestow,
A book—my slippers—and a field to stroll in—
My garden-seat—an elbow-chair to loll in;
Sunshine when wanted—shade, when shade invites;
With pleasant country sounds, and smells, and sights:
And now and then, a glass of generous wine,
Shared, with a chatty friend of "auld lang syne".
And one companion more for ever nigh.
To sympathize in all that passes by—
To journey with me on the path of life,
And share its pleasure, and divide its strife,
These simple joys, Eugenius, let me find
And I'll ne'er cast a lingering look behind.

These lines were written after Mr. Eskine's second marriage, and refer, no doubt, in the latter part to his second wife, who proved a most valuable companion and a tender nurse in his declining years. What degree of happiness his first connexion yielded in his early days, I have no access to know; but the extreme nervous irritability, and somewhat eccentric ways of the first Mrs. Erskine, did not contribute greatly to his happiness in her later years. One of her peculiarities consisted in not retiring to rest at the usual hours. She would frequently employ half the night in examining the wardrobe of the family, to see that nothing was amissing, and that every thing was in its proper place. I recollect being told this among other proofs of her oddities, that one morning, about two or three o'clock, having been unsucessfull in a search, she awoke Mr. Erskine by putting to him this important interrogatory. "Harry, lovie, where's your white waist-coat?"

The mail coach used to set me down at Ammondell gate, which is about three quarters of a mile from the house; and I yet see, as vividly as I at this moment see the landscape from the window at which I am now writing, the features of that beautiful and secluded domain,—the antique stone brige,—the rushing streaming,—the wooded banks,—and above all, the owner coming towards me with his own benevolent smile and sparkling eyes. I recollect the very grey hat he used to wear, with a bit of the seam torn, and the pepper-and salt short coat, and the white neckcloth sprinkled with snuff.

No one could, or ever did, tire in Mr. Erskine's company—he was society equally for the child and for the grown man, he would first take me to see his garden, where being one day surprised by a friend while digging potatoes, he made the now well known remark, that he was enjoying *otium cum diggin a tautie.* * He would then take me to his melon bed, which we never left without a promise of having one after dinner; and then he would carry me to see the pony, and the great dog upon which his grandson, Henry David—now Lord Cardross—used afterwards to ride.

Like most men of elegant and cultivated minds, Mr. Erskine was an amateur in music, and himself no indifferent performer upon the violin. I think I scarcely ever entered the hall along with him that he did not take down his Cremona—a real one I believe—which hung on the wall, and, seating himself in one of the wooden chairs, play some snatches of old English or Scotch airs;—sometimes," "Let's have a dance upon the heath," an air from the music in Macbeth, which he used to say was by Purcel, and not by Locke, to whom it has usually been ascribed—sometimes. "The flowers of the forest." or "Auld Robin Gray"—and sometimes the beautiful Pastorale from the eighth concerto of Corelli, for whose music he had an enthusiastic admiration. But the greatest treat to me was when, after dinner, he took down from the top of his bookcase, where it lay behind a bust, I think, of Mr. Fox, his manuscript book, full of *jeux d'esprit*, charades, *bon mots*, &c. &c., all his own composition. I was then too young, and, trust, too modest, to venture any opinion upon their merits; but I well recollect the delight with which I listened and Mr. Erskine was not above being gratified by the silent homage of a youthful mind.

Few men have ever enjoyed a wider reputation for with the Honourable Henry Erskine; the epithet then, and even now, applied to him *par excellence*, is that of the witty Harry Erskine; and I do believe, that all the puns and *bon mots* which have been put into his mouth—some of them, no doubt, having originally came out of it—would eke out a handsome duodecimo. I well recollect, that nothing used to pain me so much as not perceiving at once the point of any of Mr. Erskine's witticisms. Sometimes, half an hour after the witticism had been spoken, I would begin to giggle, having only then discovered the gist of the saying. In this, however I was not singular. While Mr. Erskine practised at the bar, it was his frequent custom to walk, after the rising of the course, in the Meadows; and he was often accompanied by Lord Balmuto—one of the judges, a very good kind of man, but not particularly but in his perception of the ludicrous. His lordship never could discover at first the point of Mr. Erskine's wit; and, after walking a mile or two perhaps, and long after Mr. Erskine had forgotten the saying, Lord Balmute would suddenly cry out," "I have you now Harry—I have you now, Harry!"—stopping, and bursting into a moderate fit of laughter.

This being a personal reminiscence. I am precluded from saying any thing of Mr. Erskine's political career; let me only add that the acknowledged man of his day the head of the bar,—the ornament of the country to which he belonged, was left to cultivate melons, and prune fruit trees, and recite charades to a boy like me, while men who—But no matter; he was a greater man in his pepper and-salt coat than others in their robes of office. My next reminiscence shall be of Hector Macneil.—*Edin. Lit. Jour.—Cal. Lit. Gaz.—May* 9.

* The Scotch word for potato.

RANDOM HITS.

.....Quod divum promittere nemo
Ausit deret.....

In the life of every crooked lawyer who has wriggled his way to the wool-sack, it is invariably written that his grandfather of his grandmother, his great uncle or his great aunt, his nurse or his dominie observed to a friend one day. "That boy will be Lord Chancellor of England, if it please God to gran him life." In the accounts of churchmen who have bent themselves into mitres, the same prophecy of honour is sure to appear; so also of generals, admirals, and all persons who have in any career attained to signal success. Persons who amuse themselves with these stories [illegible] to observe, that the anticipations are false in a thousand instances, for one in which they are realised, but the verified prophecy is yet fixed upon as at least a highly curious anecdote, if not an express evidence of the subject's early development of uncommon genius. Every "preparatory school for young gentlemen" contains so many future Bishops, Chancellors, Marshalls, and Admirals, in the opinions of their admiring parents, and one perhaps fulfils the expectation, and vast is the marvel; but the rest prove dunces, blockheads, or ordinary persons. and nothing is said or thought of the disappointment of found-hopes.

When men arrive at years of vanity, they talk of themselves as wild things as their grandmothers could dream of them. Their friends heed not the *baverdage* till fortune realizes the rant, and then it is rated as one of the long forecasts of penetrating genius.

In the *Foreign Quaterly Review* of Bourienne's Memoirs of Napoleon Bonaparte is quoted as saying, at the time of the treaty of Leoben, "See'st thou this Constantionople that flatters itself that it is the seat of a double empire—and Venice that boasts a stability of a thousand years—*their day will come.*" A safer prophecy than is conveyed in these terms, could not have been conceived by the practised genius of Mr. Francis Moore, Astrologer—*their day will come* is a vaticination having room to domsday. But the Reviewer thinks it worth a remark and adds, "This was one of the General's first communications: the last day of Venice was already at hand that of Constantinople does not seem far distant." The prophet, however, did not apprehend this own day was coming faster than that of Constantinople, and that Turkey would make a part in the vast combination of causes that determined his fall. The peace of the Porte with Russia was one of the events unfavourable to the success of the Russian expedition. The coming day of Venice, nevertheless, was worthy of note, as a penetrating anticipation of the future; but Napoleon's dream of dating an order from "the rich and populous City of London," passes without comment. Thus the random shots which hit, are taken for proof of wonderful correctness of aim, while those that miss,—the greatly larger number,—are not counted.—*Examiner.*

MISCELLANEA.

As soon as the sentence of separation between Lord Ellenborough and Lady Ellenborough was pronounced in the Consistorial Court, proceedings were immediately adopted to carry the cause to the House of Lords where it is fully expected that the Divorce bill will pass without the least interruption from the learned civilians engaged in behalf of her ladyship. The document, signed by Dr. Lushington, for the separation, was, on the sentence being given, forwarded to the proper office at the House of Lords. As the evidence on the part of the promoter of the cause was not gone into, on account of the assurance made by the King's advocate that no opposition would be offered, the details of the facts exhibited in the libel were not stated in court. Lady Ellenborough is the daughter of Admiral Digby, and up to the time when Lord Ellenborough was informed of his wife's conduct evidenced great affection for his lordship. An expectation was at first entertained that her ladyship would have defended the cause in, the hope of having the alimony (1,000*l.* a year), it is understood) continued. The proceedings in the Consistory Court, Saturday on morning, however, did not occupy more than fiive minutes; and, although the whole of the witnesses are retained, should the House of Lords demand their examination in addition to the documentary evidence which will be laid before it, it is not expected that one will be called.—*Morning Paper.*

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